# **LATEST UPDATES**

## **MORE THAN 292,000 DEATHS**

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 292,316 people, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University at 1300 GMT. At least 4,117,740 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 195 countries and territories. The US has the highest number of total deaths with 82,389 followed by UK with 32,769 deaths. Italy recorded 30,911 deaths, France 26,994 fatalities and Spain has seen 26,920 deaths.

### **RECORD DEATHS IN BRAZIL**

Brazil registered its highest COVID-19 death toll for a single day, with 881 new deaths confirmed over the past 24 hours, the health ministry said Tuesday. The total death toll from the new coronavirus has now hit 12,400 in the country, with 177,589 confirmed cases -- up 9,258 from the day before. That makes Brazil the sixth most-affected country, after the United States, Britain, Italy, France and Spain.

## **TRUMP SUPPORT EBBS**

A Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll shows 56 percent of those surveyed now disapprove of President Trump, up five points from a similar poll in mid-April. Trump's approval rating slipped four points to 41 percent. It also found that 46 percent of registered voters would back Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the November 3 election, while 38 percent would vote for Trump.

### **WORK REMOTELY 'FOREVER'!**

Twitter said Tuesday it is unlikely to open its offices before September, and that many of its employees will be permitted to work from home permanently even after the end of the coronavirus lockdowns. "The past few months have proven we can make that work. So if our employees are in a role and situation that enables them to work from home and they want to continue to do so forever, we will make that happen," it said.

## **BRYAN ADAMS APOLOGIZES**

Canadian rocker Bryan Adams apologized Tuesday saying "I have love for all people" after a backlash and accusations of anti-Chinese racism over his online rant about the pandemic forcing the cancellation of his London shows this week. Adams had said in earlier expletivelaced Twitter and Instagram posts that his gigs at the Royal Albert Hall were nixed thanks to "bat eating, wet market animal selling, virus making greedy bastards."

### **NO NEW CASES IN THAILAND**

Thailand reported no new coronavirus cases for the first time since March 9. Thailand has a total of 3,017 cases and 56 deaths since the

### outbreak escalated in January. **NEPAL SEES SURGE IN CASES**

Nepal saw the highest single-day jump in its coronavirus tally, reporting 83 cases. But the country's total number of confirmed infections remains relatively low at 217, with a majority of the cases recorded in the country's southern districts adjoining India.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

to see cases and deaths rising unless

measures are not taken scientifically.

# 'We have to think local'

India moves to protect MSMEs as Modi urges Indians to buy local products

A day after India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the country to be self-reliant, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman yesterday announced a slew of measures to help businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), recover from the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 20-trillion-rupee (US\$266 billion) relief plan for Asia's third-largest economy came as the country enters its 50th day under the world's biggest shutdown yesterday.

Modi also announced the extension of lockdown after May 17 in a "completely different form", with new rules. The Indian leader stressed the need for the country to be self-reliant, and for people to buy local products to help the economy.

"The corona crisis has also taught us the importance of local supply chains... we have to now think local," he said.

In the first of her several addresses to outline the contours of the package, Sitharaman announced 15 different measures yesterday, which involved MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) NBFCs (Non-Bank Financial Companies), Provident Fund, Real Estate and Taxation.

To allow more liquidity in the hands of the people the government offered a 25 per cent reduction in Tax Deduction at Source



Collection at Source for specified receipts.

The government also said it would pay

The finance minister said the intention

the EPF contribution for employees of

MSMEs to help them recover from the crisis.

of the her ministry is to build local brands,

and integrate them into global supply

chain and not meant to look inwards and

cut India to be an isolated country, but to

steps are successfully taken by this govt, from

reforms, based on Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and

mobile technology, which has helped deliver

"Self-reliant India does not mean cutting

continue contributing to the globe.

\$266 billion relief package announced for SME's and labourers

Lockdown will be extended with new rules

Finance minister announces 3 lakh crores rupees loans for businesses, particularly **MSMEs** 



to migrants now," she explained. for non-salaried specified payments and Tax She announced Rs 3 lakh crores collateral-free automatic loans businesses, particularly MSMEs.

Collateral free loan to be provided to SMEs with 12 month moratorium; 45 lakh units to benefit, she said, announcing parts of the economic package. For stressed MSMEs, Government to facilitate provision of 20,000 crore rupee subordinate debt for equity support. 2 lakh MSMEs likely to benefit.

India was already battling a liquidity crisis, off from rest of the world. Many reform driven bad loans and rising unemployment even before the pandemic. Some 122 million Indians lost their jobs last month, data 2014-19. For the poor, brought in DBT based showed, with small traders and daily wage earners accounting for the bulk of losses.

# Five plagues from China in 20 years!

NDTV ONLINE

As many as five plagues have come out of China in the last 20 years and at some point it has to stop, US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien has said, holding the country responsible for the origin of the coronavirus pandemic which has killed over 250,000 people globally.

People across the globe are going to rise up and tell the Chinese government that "we can no longer have these plagues coming out of China", whether it is from labs or wet markets, neither one is a good answer, he told reporters at the White House on Tuesday.

"We know it came from Wuhan and I think there's circumstantial evidence that it could have come from the lab or the wet market. But, again, if you're China, neither one's a good answer," Mr O'Brien said.

"We've had five plagues from China in the last 20 years. We've had SARS, avian flu, swine flu, COVID-19 now and how longer can the world put up with this terrible public health situation that you've got in the People's Republic of China that is being unleashed on the world," the top American official said. He, however, did not mention the fifth plague to come out of from China.

When asked that the US is still looking for evidence about the origin of the virus, he refrained from giving a time frame. "I can't give you a timeframe on that. That's something that we're continuing to review and it is obviously a very serious

"Look, China's got to figure out how to deal with its public health because we cannot have another one of these virus outbreaks and plagues come from China. This was a terrible thing that happened to the entire world, not just to the United : States," he said

# Cancel poor countries' debt

More than 300 lawmakers around the globe urge IMF, World Bank

Over 300 lawmakers from around the world yesterday urged the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to cancel the debt of the poorest countries in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and to boost funding to avert a global economic meltdown.

The initiative, led by former US presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Ilham Omar, a Democrat from Minnesota, comes amid growing concern that developing countries and emerging economies will be devastated by the pandemic.

Widespread shutdowns aimed at containing the virus are taking a huge toll on the global economy, and especially poor countries with weak health systems, high debt levels and few resources to manage the dual health and economic crises.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday said the Fund was "very likely" to revise downward its forecast that global output would shrink by 3% in 2020, and said developing countries would need more than \$2.5 trillion in financing to weather the storm.

Sanders said poor countries needed every cent to care for their people, instead of servicing the "unsustainable debts" they owe to the large international financial institutions.

In the letter, parliamentarians from two dozen countries on all six continents, said debt service obligations of the poorest countries should be cancelled outright, instead of simply suspended, as agreed by the Group of 20 countries in April. Other signatories include former British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Argentine lawmaker Carlos Menem, who enacted austerity measures when he served as president in the 1980s and 1990s.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



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# e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 02/EED/JKT/Project Code: (1600101-120001602-3258108 & 1250301-120001602-3258108)/e-Tender/2019-20 Dt: 12/05/2020

Name of Project: (1) Repair/Renovation of Non-Govt. Educational Institutions (TMED)

(2) Repair/Renovation of Non-Govt. Educational Institutions (SHED)

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works:

Name of the tender Tender Type Last date & Last date & time of No. method time of selling submission documents documents Rev non-govt. Mad-05 Repair & Renovation work at Taltala 454626 04-Jun-2020 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 LTM Bahadurpur Dhakil Madrasah Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi. 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt. Mad-03 Repair & Renovation work at Pilot 454623 NCT. 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 LTM Mohamadia Dhakil Madrasah Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi. 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt. Mad-04 Repair & Renovation work at Olamagoni 454625 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Adakhola Dhakil Madrasah Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 04 Rev non-govt. Mad-01 Repair & Renovation work at Uttar 454624 NCT. 04-Jun-2020 03-Jun-2020 Talgacia Nasaria Fazil Madrasah Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt. Mad-02 Repair & Renovation work at Jalal Shah 454627 03-Jun-2020 NCT. 04-Jun-2020 Islamia Fazil Madrasah Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 06 Rev non-govt.-01 Repair & Renovation work at Amua Girls 455660 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 School & College at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 13 Rev non-govt.-13 Repair & Renovation work of Galua Union NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-03 Repair & Renovation work of Pacim Shitka 455734 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 03-Jun-2020 Girls Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-20 Repair & Renovation work of Advocate 455738 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Harunor Rashid Khan Foundation Mohila College at Nalcity LTM 15:00 11:00 Upazila Jhalokiathi District. 18 Rev non-govt.-18 Repair & Renovation work of Amibabad 455737 04-Jun-2020 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-08 Repair & Renovation work of Shoto Das Kathi 11 455736 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Shoti Loki Girls Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 12 Rev non-govt.-16 Repair & Renovation work of Abdul Malick 03-Jun-2020 455735 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 College at Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-12 Repair & Renovation work of Jamila Khatun 455749 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 School & College at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District, LTM 15:00 11:00 14 Rev non-govt-07 Repair & Renovation work of Shatora Kathi 455746 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 03-Jun-2020 Girls Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 15 Rev non-govt.-11 Repair & Renovation work of Afsar Memorial 455752 NCT. 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 03-Jun-2020 Rev non-govt.-04 Repair & Renovation work of Chaserampur 455750 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 M.L. Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-15 Repair & Renovation work of Boroia Degree 455748 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 College at Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-10 Repair & Renovation work of Hemateuddin 455747 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Degree College at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-09 Repair & Renovation work of Shachilapur 455745 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Kista Kathi Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi LTM 15:00 11:00 District. Rev non-govt.-14 Repair & Renovation work of Shangor Ideal 455744 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Rajapujr Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 21 Rev non-govt.-19 Repair & Renovation work of Timirkathi 455743 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 22 Rev non-govt.-02 Repair & Renovation work of Kathalia Pilot 455742 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Girls Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-06 Repair & Renovation work of Sonar Bangla 455741 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 24 Rev non-govt.-17 Repair & Renovation work of Nalcity Girls 455740 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 School & College at Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 25 Rev non-govt.-05 Repair & Renovation work of Boltala 455739 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 LTM Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. 15:00 11:00

This in an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

# Md Jahangir Alam Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department

Jhlokathi

Highest 19 deaths reported 113-yr-old

believed to be the oldest person living in Spain, has beaten the coronavirus at a retirement home where several other residents died from the disease, the residence said Tuesday.

born in the US, became infected in April at the Santa Maria del Tura care home in the eastern city of Olot, where she has lived for the past 20 years, and fought the respiratory illness off in isolation in her room. The care home has recorded "several" virus-related deaths during the pandemic, the spokeswoman for the residence said.

"She survived the disease and is doing fine," a spokeswoman for the residence told AFP, adding Branyas had only displayed mild symptoms.

took a test last week and the result was negative," the spokeswoman said without giving further details.

Branyas, a mother of centenarian.

Several articles have been published in Spanish media in recent years about Branyas, considered to be the oldest person in the country.

She was born on March 4, 1907 in San Francisco where her father, who was from northern Spain, worked as a journalist.

Branyas moved to Spain with her family on a boat during World War I and also lived through the Spanish flu pandemic that swept the world in 1918-19 as well as Spain's 1936-39 civil war.

the worst affected countries

GD-834

# woman beats virus in Spain

AFP, Madrid

A 113-year-old woman, Maria Branyas, who was

"She feels good now, she

three, was isolated in her room for weeks, with only a single employee in protective gear allowed in to check on her, according to Catalan regional television TV3, which broadcast images of the

Spain has been one of

#### "We have no alternative to taking aggressive measures in case detection on the number of detected cases, he said. situation of hand," Prof Muzaherul Huq, former lockdown in that district."

and isolation to control the situation. advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO), South East Asia region, told The Daily Star. On April 17, authorities reported 15

deaths -- second highest in a single day. On Monday, the number of daily detected cases surpassed the 1,000 mark for the first time with the second highest of 1034. In last ten days since May 3, the number

of detected cases almost doubled -- from 9455 to 17,822. **GOVT ESTIMATE VS REALITY** 

Experts said the government estimation

regarding the number of positive cases and deaths from the novel coronavirus infection does not reflect the reality. This newspaper contacted Dr Shafiun

Shimul, who helped the DGHS make the time-series based projection published on According to the projection, the number

of positive cases may hit 48,386 on May 31 while the death toll may cross 815. In his another projection made based on the epidemiological model SIR

(Susceptible, Infectious, or Recovered), he

showed that the number of positive cases will cross 40,000 by the same date. "The projection necessarily does not reflect the reality. This was based on the daily number of tests, detection and number of deaths. If the daily tests do not increase, there will be lesser cases than the projection," said

economics at Dhaka University. He added that the real number may be two to three times higher as there are many

Dr Shafiun, an associate professor of health

hidden cases. "The current situation is not like what was 20 days ago. The more we get accurate and representative data, the more our predictions are accurate. These models will help decide on future strategy to fight the

outbreak. According to media reports, around a thousand patients with Covid-19 symptoms died so far after the country reported first cases.

Talking on this issue, experts said there should be at least 10,000 tests daily immediately and it should be increased in course of time to gauge the real picture.

"Unless every person can get access to test when they need it, no prediction will reflect the reality," Prof Muzaherul Huq said. He thinks no measures without scientific

basis will work. "The concept of herd immunity is absurd. As there is no vaccine for Covid-19, herd immunity means letting around 80 percent of the population to be infected. None but Sweden has become able to accept this," Prof Huq said.

LOCKDOWN IN THREE WAYS

Prof Huq suggested imposing districtwise three types of lockdown in this

All the district should be isolated from one another but people's movement and all other activities have to be controlled based

"If there are less than 10 cases in any district, there is no need to impose

If there are 10 to 100 cases in any district, that should be locked down partially, he

"For the districts like Dhaka, there must be complete lockdown. During these measures, case detection, isolation and treatment should be done aggressively. There is no way of taking scientific measures before us," said Prof Huq, also founder of Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh.

RECORD SURGE During a daily briefing on the coronavirus situation yesterday, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) at the DGHS, said some 214 patients recovered in 24 hours till 2:30pm, taking the total number of recovery cases to 3,361.

"The recovery rate now stands at 18.52 percent and mortality rate at 1.53 percent," said Prof Nasima.

Of the 19 deceased, 12 were male and

seven females. Thirteen of them died in hospitals in Dhaka and one of them was from Pabna district, according to press release from

Of the other dead, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Cumilla and Narail district saw one death each while two patients died

in Chattogram district. One of the deceased was aged under 10, one between 31 and 40, seven between 51 and 60, five between 61 and 70 while the other five were aged between 71 and 80.

So far, the highest number of detected

cases -- around 60 percent -- are in Dhaka city, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) website. The authorities reported the first three

Covid-19 on March 18. 'COVID-19 NOT A SEVERE DISEASE' Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday once again said the

cases on March 8 and the first death from

Covid-19 is not a severe disease. "I do not think Covid-19 is a severe disease; at least it is not causing deaths in that scale. Some 250 people died so far; I pray mercy for the departed souls. But we can say, Bangladesh is in better status

compared to many countries," he said. While around 20 to 30 thousand people died in Europe, we have lesser deaths and affected people over the same period," the minister said while speaking as the chief guest at the joining programme of newly appointed doctors and nurses at BCPS Auditorium in the capital.

2,500 people were infected with the virus outside Dhaka. The rest are in Dhaka. He claimed that the government has responded rightly to tackle the situation.

He said there are more cases in Dhaka

as economic activity is more here. "Only

in the pandemic, with nearly 27,000 COVID-19 deaths confirmed so far.